

17 OCTOBER

WORLD DAY FOR OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



Extracts of the International Charter



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World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty Proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



I - Respect the Spirit of the Day

E1 The Day is a gathering for peace and human dignity in the spirit of the declaration engraved on the commemorative stone in honor of the victims of extreme poverty on Trocadero Square in Paris, France.



«On 17 October, 1987, defenders of human rights and citizens of all countries gathered together on this square. They paid tribute to the victims of hunger, ignorance and violence. They expressed their conviction that extreme poverty is not inevitable. They proclaimed their solidarity with those struggling around the world to destroy it. Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.»

Father Joseph Wresinski

E2 The Day provides opportunities to promote meetings that would not normally happen in everyday life, between the poorest and other citizens, around a common desire and commitment to eradicate extreme poverty.

E3 The Day must recognize and respect the equal dignity of everyone. Recognizing that the poorest are often the victims of all forms of violence everywhere in the world.

E4 The Day should include or reflect the commitments and contributions of people resisting extreme poverty on a daily basis. Contributions from the poorest are integral parts of any gathering or initiative.

E5 The Day is meant to promote and demonstrate mutual understanding, solidarity and the shared responsibility of all individuals and groups from different backgrounds, working in close collaboration with people living in poverty. Therefore, the preparations leading up to the celebration of the Day should be a process that continues throughout the year.

E6 The Day symbolizes the daily struggle of those who live in extreme poverty.

E7 The Day reminds us that the poorest are often forced to live in shame. Therefore, organizers must ensure that all activities undertaken on this occasion as well as all messages, press releases and recorded media (texts, photographs, films, videos, etc...) respect the dignity of people living in poverty who are at the heart of this gathering.

II - Objectives of the Day

Gathering together citizens and institutions, public and private, to express their rejection of extreme poverty through, but not limited to, the following means:

Demonstrating solidarity with people in poverty, including those who are absent or fear to participate;

Meeting, talking and interacting with people in poverty;

Educating and mobilizing all stakeholders - men, women, children, young and old. In this regard, it is important to educate children and youth in human rights and the fight against poverty;

Enabling every citizen participating, either individually or through an organization, to express solidarity and to renew its commitment to unite, by doing a significant gesture respecting the spirit of the Day;

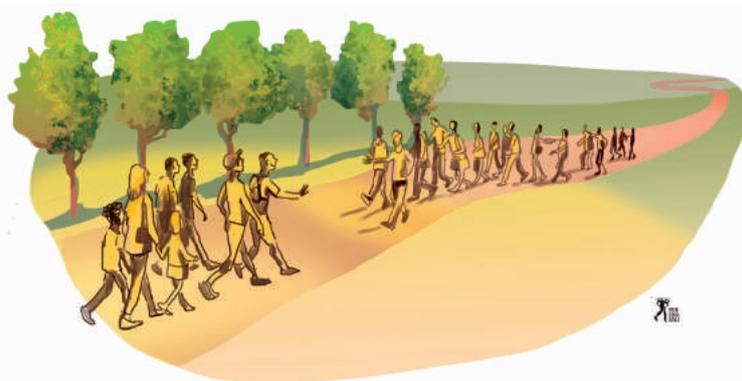
Giving an international dimension to the celebration of the Day;

Raising public visibility of the Day.

III - Proposed guidelines to achieve these objectives

Celebrate the Day in places that recall and highlight the often ignored history of the poorest or that honor and respect the victims of poverty.

Honor the victims of extreme poverty by reaffirming the link between poverty and human rights.



IV - Misuse of the Day

The Day shouldn't be used as a:

A place where people living in poverty come to display their situation of distress in front of others;

A forum for people with political, administrative or associative responsibilities;